THE INFINITY GAUNTLET #1
MARVEL
DUSTIN WEAVER
GERRY DUGGAN
SECRET WARS

THE INFINITY GAUNTLET
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001 VARIANT EDITION
SECRET WARS
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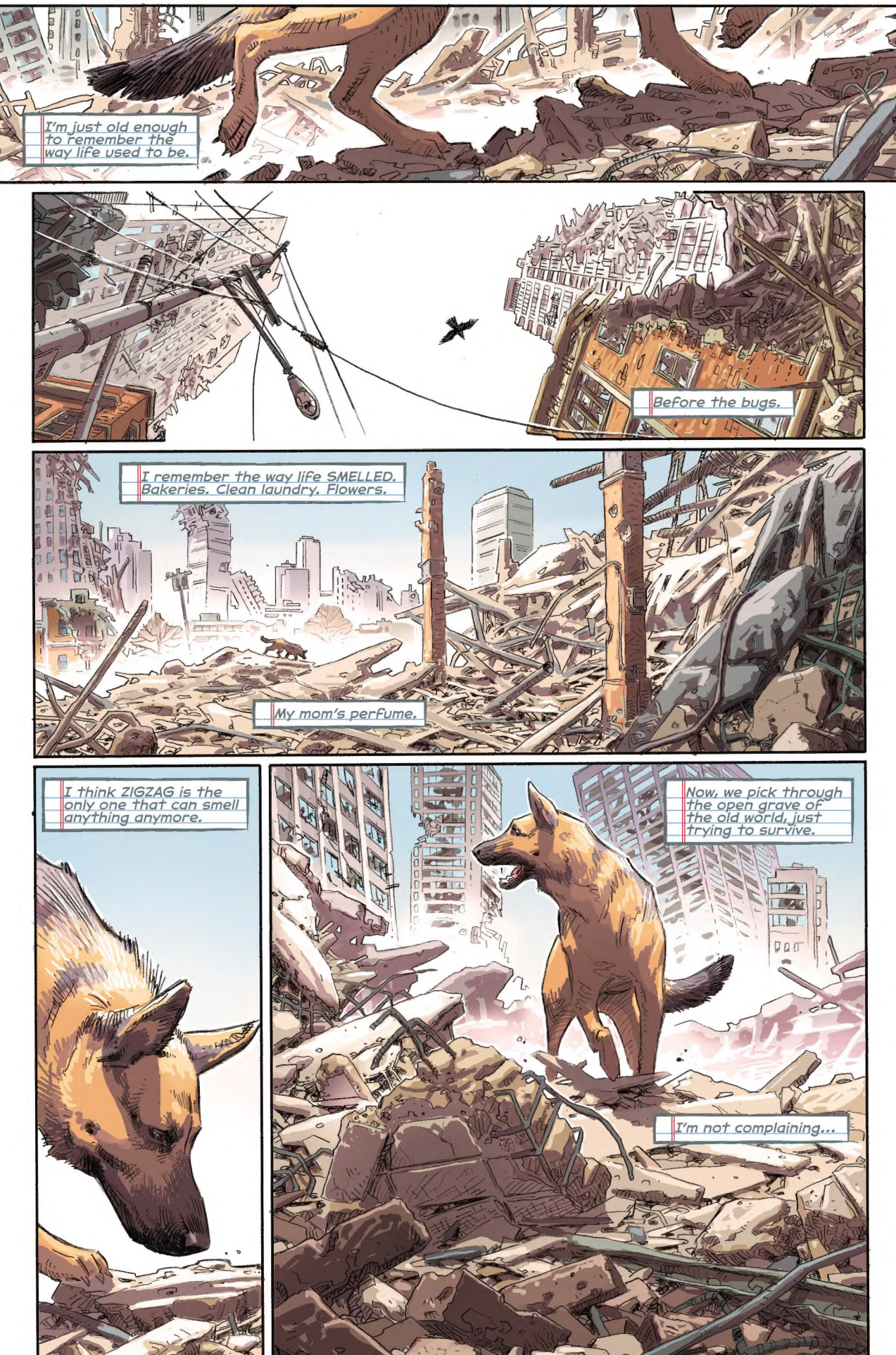
001 VARIANT EDITION


I'm just old enough to remember the way life used to be.
Before the bugs.
I remember the way life SMELLED. Bakeries. Clean laundry. Flowers.
My mom's perfume.
I think ZIGZAG is the only one that can smell anything anymore.
Now, we pick through the open grave of the old world, just trying to survive.
I'm not complaining...

...my family, the Bakian clan, are the LUCKY ONES.

We're still here. Well, MOST of us.

Sometimes I just think it would be easier if I didn't remember how things used to be.

And if I didn't remember HER.

WE'RE BACK, I HOPE THE OLD MAN DIDN'T GIVE YOU MUCH TROUBLE?

WHAT ARE YOU DRAWING? CAN I SEE?

THAT'S...

IT'S...GREAT, ANWEN.

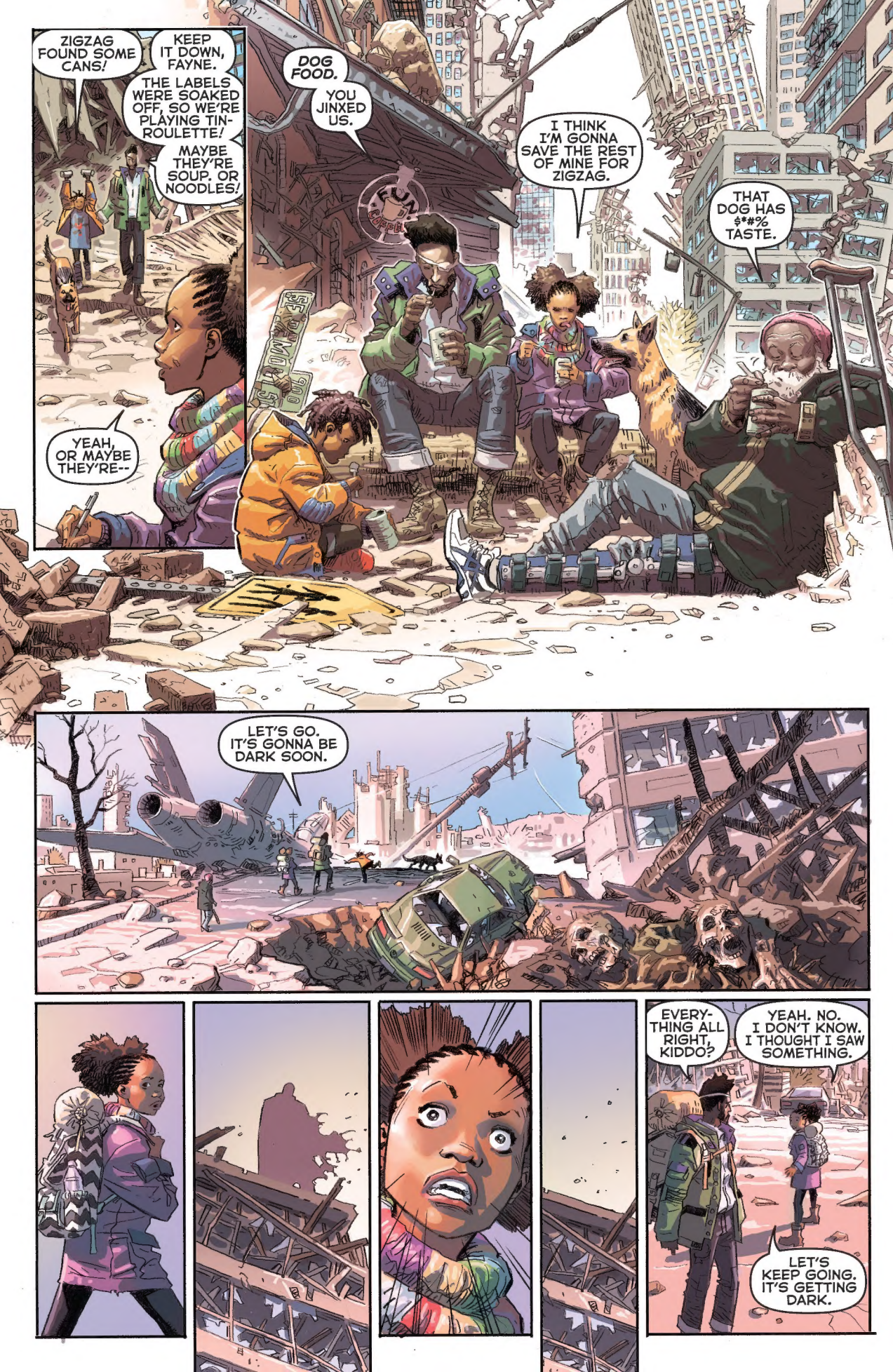
I FOUND A NEW PENCIL IN A BUSTED OFFICE. STILL HAD LEAD IN IT!

DOES THIS LOOK LIKE MOM?

YOU GOT TALENT, ANWEN.

I'LL TAKE YOUR DUCKING OF THE QUESTION AS A "NO."

FORGIVE ME, DARLIN', BUT...IT'S BEEN SO LONG, I CAN'T REALLY SEE HER FACE SO CLEARLY ANYMORE.


ZIGZAG FOUND SOME CANS!
KEEP IT DOWN, FAYNE.
THE LABELS WERE SOAKED OFF, SO WE'RE PLAYING TIN-ROULETTE!
MAYBE THEY'RE SOUP. OR NOODLES!
YEAH, OR MAYBE THEY'RE--
DOG FOOD.
YOU JINXED US.
I THINK I'M GONNA SAVE THE REST OF MINE FOR ZIGZAG.
THAT DOG HAS $*#% TASTE.
LET'S GO. IT'S GONNA BE DARK SOON.
EVERY-THING ALL RIGHT, KIDDO?
YEAH. NO. I DON'T KNOW. I THOUGHT I SAW SOMETHING.
LET'S KEEP GOING. IT'S GETTING DARK.

CAST ACROSS THE FARTHEST REACHES OF THE COSMOS, THE INFINITY STONES ARE A POWER BEYOND COMPARE. WHEN BROUGHT TOGETHER, THEY GRANT THEIR USER COMPLETE CONTROL OVER ALL OF REALITY. THE SINGULAR DEVICE THAT CAN HOLD ALL THE STONES IS CALLED

THE INFINITY GAUNTLET

THE MULTIVERSE WAS DESTROYED!

•

THE HEROES OF EARTH-616 AND EARTH-1610 WERE POWERLESS TO SAVE IT!

•

NOW, ALL THAT REMAINS...IS **BATTLEWORLD**:
A MASSIVE, PATCHWORK PLANET COMPOSED OF THE FRAGMENTS OF WORLDS THAT NO LONGER EXIST, MAINTAINED BY THE IRON WILL OF ITS GOD AND MASTER, VICTOR VON DOOM!

•

EACH REGION IS A DOMAIN UNTO ITSELF!

•

THIS IS THE STORY OF ONE SUCH DOMAIN.

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GERRY DUGGAN &
DUSTIN WEAVER

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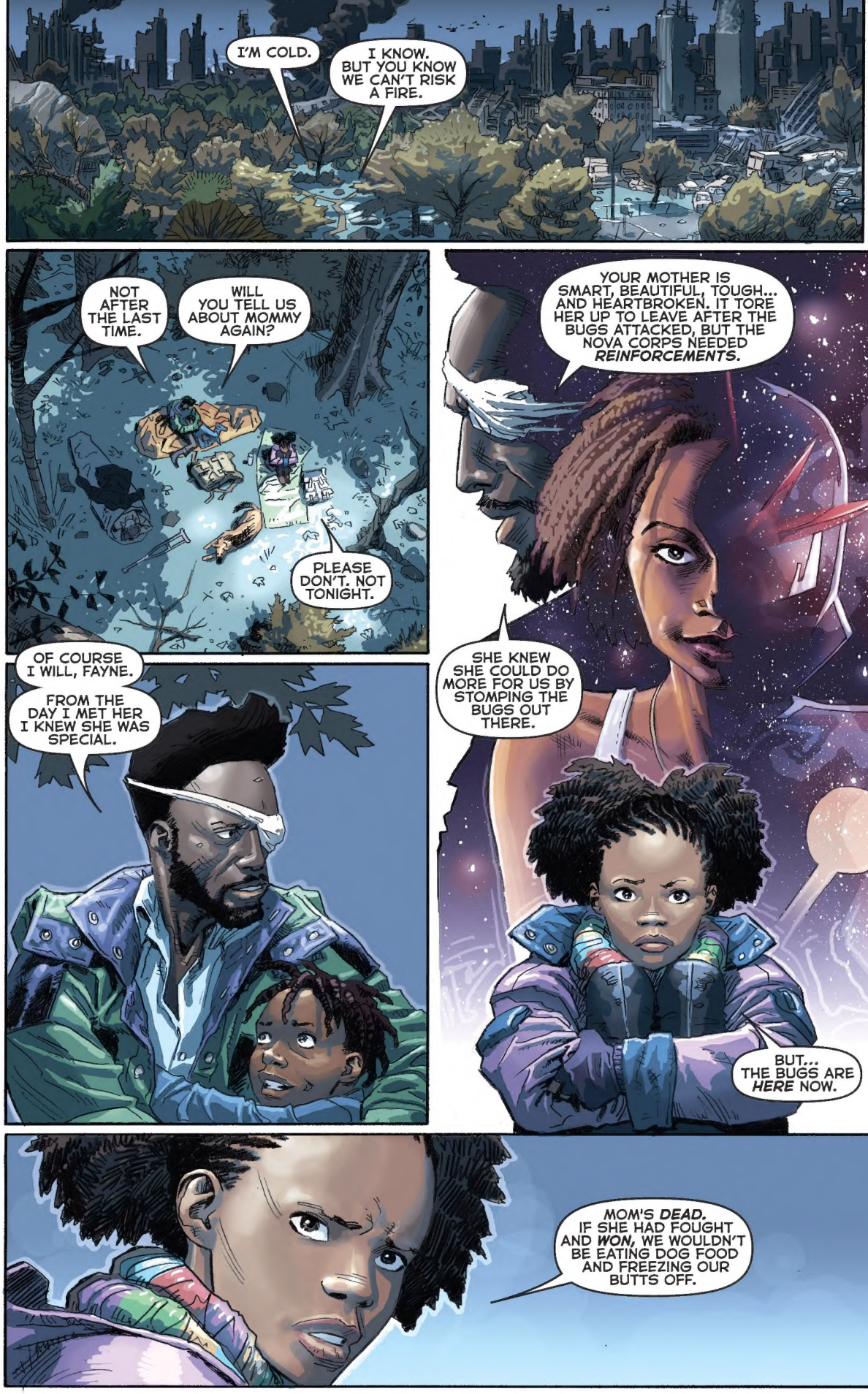
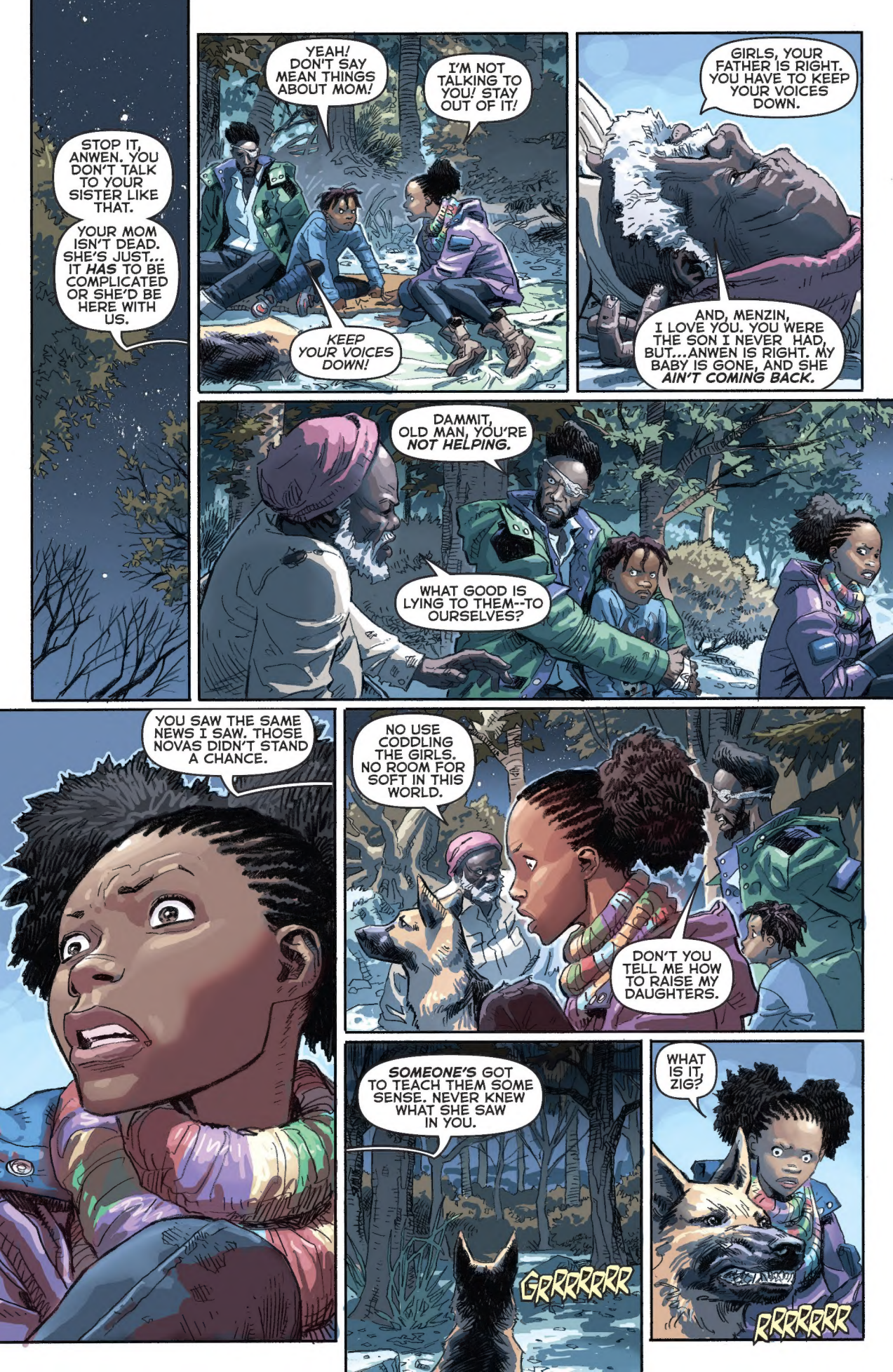

I'M COLD.
I KNOW. BUT YOU KNOW WE CAN'T RISK A FIRE.
NOT AFTER THE LAST TIME.
WILL YOU TELL US ABOUT MOMMY AGAIN?
PLEASE DON'T. NOT TONIGHT.
YOUR MOTHER IS SMART, BEAUTIFUL, TOUGH... AND HEARTBROKEN. IT TORE HER UP TO LEAVE AFTER THE BUGS ATTACKED, BUT THE NOVA CORPS NEEDED *REINFORCEMENTS*.
OF COURSE I WILL, FAYNE.
FROM THE DAY I MET HER I KNEW SHE WAS SPECIAL.
SHE KNEW SHE COULD DO MORE FOR US BY STOMPING THE BUGS OUT THERE.
BUT... THE BUGS ARE *HERE* NOW.
MOM'S DEAD. IF SHE HAD FOUGHT AND *WON,* WE WOULDN'T BE EATING DOG FOOD AND FREEZING OUR BUTTS OFF.


STOP IT, ANWEN. YOU DON'T TALK TO YOUR SISTER LIKE THAT.
YOUR MOM ISN'T DEAD. SHE'S JUST... IT *HAS* TO BE COMPLICATED OR SHE'D BE HERE WITH US.
YEAH! DON'T SAY MEAN THINGS ABOUT MOM!
I'M NOT TALKING TO YOU! STAY OUT OF IT!
KEEP YOUR VOICES DOWN!
GIRLS, YOUR FATHER IS RIGHT. YOU HAVE TO KEEP YOUR VOICES DOWN.
AND, MENZIN, I LOVE YOU. YOU WERE THE SON I NEVER HAD, BUT...ANWEN IS RIGHT. MY BABY IS GONE, AND SHE *AIN'T COMING BACK.*
DAMMIT, OLD MAN, YOU'RE *NOT HELPING.*
WHAT GOOD IS LYING TO THEM--TO OURSELVES?
YOU SAW THE SAME NEWS I SAW. THOSE NOVAS DIDN'T STAND A CHANCE.
NO USE CODDLING THE GIRLS. NO ROOM FOR SOFT IN THIS WORLD.
DON'T YOU TELL ME HOW TO RAISE MY DAUGHTERS.
SOMEONE'S GOT TO TEACH THEM SOME SENSE. NEVER KNEW WHAT SHE SAW IN YOU.
GRRRRRRR
WHAT IS IT, ZIG?
RRRRRRR

YOU KIDDING ME, GRAMPS? WE'RE GETTING INTO *THIS* AGAIN?
YOU'RE DAMN RIGHT WE'RE GETTING INTO THIS. YOU ALWAYS WERE SOFT.
SOFT? I WASN'T TOO SOFT TO SAVE YOUR LIFE MORE THAN ONCE OR TWICE SINCE WE'VE BEEN ON THE RUN!
SHHH!
GRRRRRR
SHE'S DEAD. IT'S THE TRUTH.
I DONT *WANT* IT TO BE TRUE, BUT IT IS!
I MADE MY PEACE WITH IT...
...BUT IF I GO FIRST...
...I DON'T WANT THESE GIRLS--
RARGGH!
DAD--
WHAT? YOU DON'T WANT *WHAT?!*
SHUT UP!
DON'T YOU SPEAK THAT WAY TO YOUR FATHER--
DON'T YOU SPEAK THAT WAY TO YOUR GRAND-FATHER--
LOOK!
BARK BARK BARK
OH, NO!
GO!
RARGGH!
IF WE GET SPLIT UP--
--MEET BACK AT CAMP!

DADDY!
THOOM THOOM
DON'T LOOK-- RUN!
THOOM THOOM THOOM
THOOM THOOM THOOM
AH!
SKRABOOM
AEEEE!!
RRRGH!
LEAVE HER ALONE!
WHAKK
GRAMPA! GET AWAY!

I'M RIGHT BEHIND YOU!
DADDY!
DON'T LOOK BACK, BABY!
FLYERS!
SKRYKKKKKK!
DAD! FAYNE!
NO NO NO NO!
This is how I die?

AHH!
It's like...time slows down.
I see my dad and my sister run down.
GET UNDERGROUND!
:HUFF: :HUFF:
But the bugs are about to get Gramp.
MADE IT!
I see it all from above. The fliers drop their food and let it break open.
Then they eat the meat off broken bones.
But I hit something soft on the way down...
AHHH!
LEMME ALONE, YOU SUNOFABITCH!
AEEEII OOF!

Suddenly time starts moving again--and I'm PISSED.
WHOA!
ANWEN!
I'M IN THE PIPE!
I'M COMING!
GRRARRGH!
HANG ON!
SKRYKKKK!
SHUT UP, YOU DISGUSTING BUG!
YEAA-UNHN!
HERE! GRAB MY HAND!
DO YOU SEE THEM BACK THERE, FAYNE?!
RRRIGH!

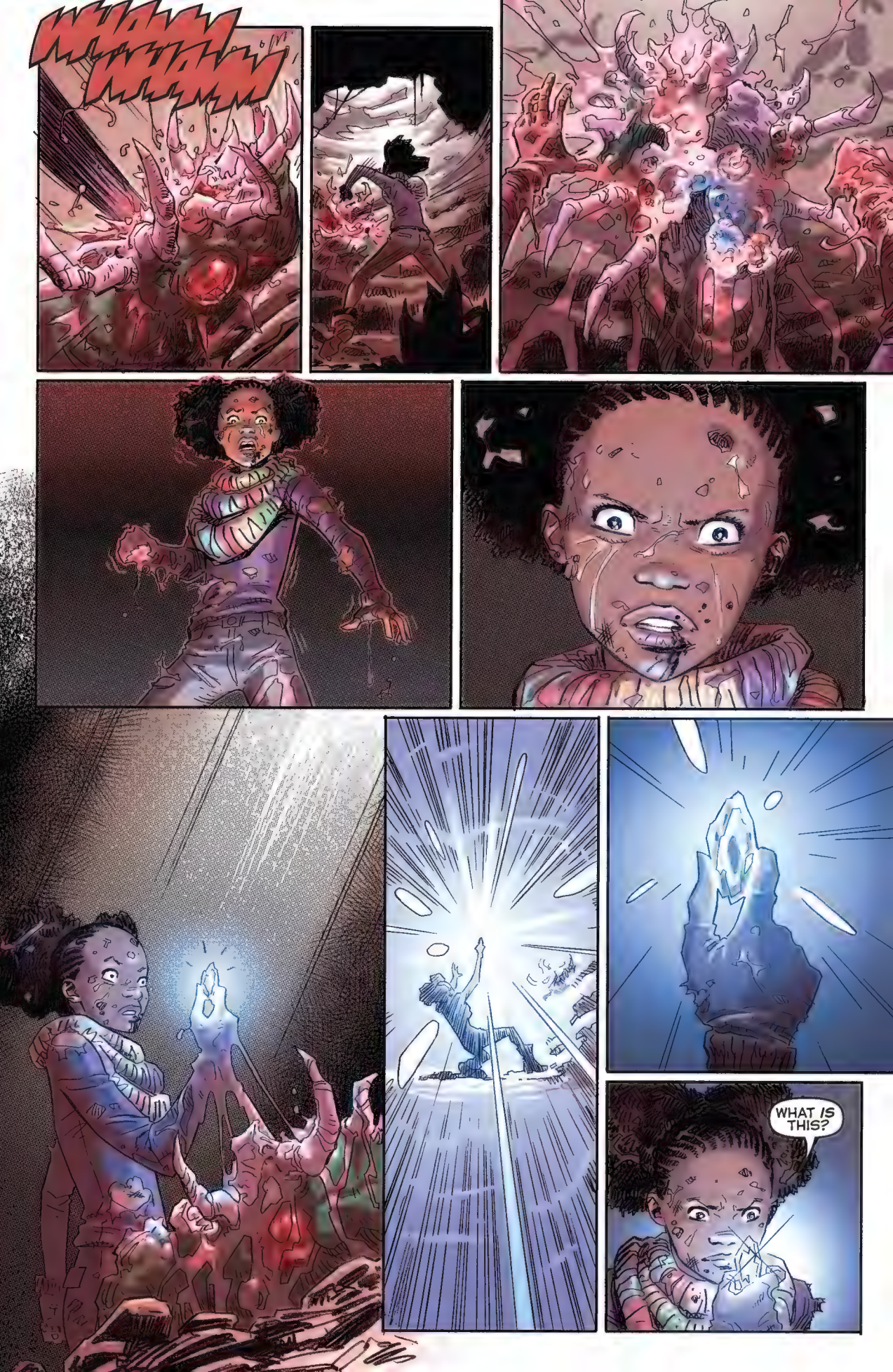
FAYNE, STOP SQUIRMING! WE CAN'T FALL HERE!
GRRR!
NO!
HEY!
ZIGZAG, BACK!
SKRKKK!
DON'T LET IT GET ZIGZAG!
QUIET!
HANG ON!
KA-BOOM
RUN, ZIGZAG! GO! GO!
AEEEEIII!!
YEAAAAAHH!
SKRKKK!
WHOOA!

AUUGH!
OOF!
LOOK OUT!
GRAMPA!
SKRYKKKK!
AHHH!
WHOOM
AAAAUGGH!
:GASP:

GRAMP?
I'M ALIVE. I'M ALIVE...
ANWEN, DON'T COME OUT OF THERE.
STAY AS QUIET AS A MOUSE AND RUN OUT THE OTHER SIDE. I'LL DISTRACT THEM.
NO!
YOU'RE ONE HELL OF AN ARTIST, GIRL.
OVER HERE, UGLIES! AHHHHH!
HERE! HERE!

HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
AW, MAN.
AHHHHHHHH!!!
AW, CAN'T FIT IN HERE, CAN YOU, YOU UGLY-ASS HORSEFLY.

I talk a big game.
But when I realize where I am...
...in a BUG NEST...
...I know it's OVER. I'm going to die.
SKRYKKKKK!
SKRYKKKKK!
SKRYKKKKK!
My entire family is about to die.
All of us...
Everyone except my MOM.
Who chose the CORPS instead of her DAUGHTERS!
SKRYKKKKK!
SKRYKKKKK!
Who DOES that?!
TO THEIR FAMILY?!
YOU SHOULD HAVE BEEN HERE!
WHAM
WHY DID YOU LEAVE?!
WHAM
WHAM


WHAM
WHAM
WHAM
WHAT IS THIS?

FWASH
FWABOOM
FWOOM
FWOOM
FWOOM
HELLO?
I catch a glimpse of blue lightning.
OH, MY...
SKRYKKKKK!
GRCCCCCCCHK!
FWASH
FWASH
AEEEII!
FWASH
FWABOOM
ANWEN.
YOU'RE EVEN MORE BEAUTIFUL THAN I REMEMBER.
It can't be.

I PROMISED YOU I WOULD RETURN.
Suddenly everything I ever wished for just came true.
MOM?
SORRY I'M LATE.

OH, GOD-- MOM.
IT'S OKAY.
EVERYTHING'S GOING TO BE FINE NOW...
THAT IS DECIDEDLY *UNTRUE.*
TO BE CONTINUED...

NEXT: